

THE DIRECTOR OF  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

National Intelligence Council

20 June 1983

NOTE FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Herbert E. Meyer  
Vice Chairman, NIC

1. At your request, I have discussed this with John McMahon and Bob Gates. Both endorse the idea.

2. I have discussed the text itself with all members of the SRP.



Herbert E. Meyer

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington D.C. 20505

20 June 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Senior Review Panel

FROM : Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Succession in the Kremlin: A "Lessons Learned" Review

1. The transfer of power in the Kremlin is a seminal event for the US intelligence community. We had 18 years to prepare for the last transfer; we are unlikely to have this much time again.

2. I want you to conduct a "lessons-learned" review of the intelligence community's performance in the period prior to the death of Brezhnev through the period following Andropov's election and initial efforts to consolidate power. Among the questions your review should answer are these:

- Have our analysts adequately tasked collectors to provide the right sorts of intelligence?
- Given our limited resources and the levels of risk deemed acceptable, have our collectors done an adequate job?
- Has the raw intelligence flowed smoothly through the community, so that published papers have benefitted fully from all-source intelligence?
- Have we made available to policymakers the right intelligence, in the appropriate formats, at the right time?
- Is there anything we should do now to enable us to do a better job next time?

3. I am sending copies of this memorandum, in the first instance, to the Directors of DIA, NSA, and INR, and to the DDI, DDO, and Chairman of the NIC, requesting that they furnish you full support in this project and provide you with all available material.

William J. Casey